

1 CLAIMS

2 What is claimed is:

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- 4 1. An imaging apparatus for producing an image on a sheet of media, comprising:
- 5 a print path;
- 6 a fusing device operatively positioned on the print path and having a hot roller
- 7 and at least one pressure roller; and,
- 8 a fusing circuit operatively connected with the print path, whereby the sheet of
- 9 media is selectively moved along the fusing circuit and re-exposed to the hot roller.
- 10
- 11 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the fusing circuit is substantially in the form of
- 12 a Siamese wishbone.
- 13
- 14 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the fusing circuit is substantially in the form of
- 15 a full loop.
- 16
- 17 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the fusing circuit is substantially in the form of
- 18 a single parallel siding.
- 19
- 20 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the fusing circuit is substantially in the form of
- 21 a double parallel siding.
- 22
- 23 6. The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising:
- 24 a deposition device which is operatively positioned on the print path and
- 25 upstream of the fusing device, whereby an image is selectively deposited on the sheet of
- 26 media while the sheet of media moves along the print path and through the deposition
- 27 device; and,
- 28 a duplex circuit operatively incorporated into the fusing circuit and configured to
- 29 turn the sheet of media over and move the sheet of media upstream of the deposition
- 30 device.
- 31
- 32 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the fusing circuit branches off of the duplex
- 33 circuit.
- 34

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising a shunting device operatively
2 positioned on the print path, whereby a predetermined sheet of media is selectively
3 diverted from the print path and onto the fusing circuit as the result of selective operation
4 of the shunting device.

5
6 9. The apparatus of claim 8, and further comprising:
7 a first reversing leg which forms a portion of the fusing circuit; and,
8 a second reversing leg which forms a portion of the fusing circuit.
9

10 10. The apparatus of claim 1, and further comprising:
11 a deposition device located on the print path; and,
12 a fusing device located on the print path downstream of the deposition device,
13 wherein the fusing circuit substantially circumscribes the fusing device, and the
14 deposition device lies outside the fusing circuit.

15
16 11. An imaging apparatus, comprising a fusing device having a single hot roller and a
17 plurality of pressure rollers.

18
19 12. The imaging apparatus of claim 11, comprising two pressure rollers.
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21 13. The imaging apparatus of claim 11, comprising three pressure rollers.
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23 14. The apparatus of claim 11, and further comprising:
24 a print path configured to convey there along sheets of media;
25 a fusing circuit operatively connected with the print path; and,
26 a shunting device operatively located along the print path and configured to
27 selectively divert a given sheet of media from the print path onto the fusing circuit,
28 wherein:

29 when the shunting device diverts the given sheet of media onto the fusing
30 circuit, the given sheet of media successively passes between the hot roller and
31 each of the pressure rollers; and,

32 when the shunting device does not divert the given sheet of media onto
33 the fusing circuit, the given sheet passes between the hot roller and only one of
34 the pressure rollers.
35

1 15. A method of increasing the gloss of an image formed on a sheet of media,
2 comprising:

3 providing a fusing device;

4 providing a deposition device, whereby an image is selectively formed on the
5 sheet of media during passage thereof through the deposition device; and,

6 repeatedly exposing the image to the fusing device while passing the sheet of
7 media through the deposition device only once.
8

9 16. The method of claim 15, and wherein the fusing device has a hot roller, the
10 method further comprising:

11 exposing the image to the hot roller a first time; and,

12 exposing the image to the hot roller a second time.
13

14 17. The method of claim 16, and further comprising exposing the image to the hot
15 roller a third time.
16

17 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the deposition device is located up stream of
18 the fusing device, the method further comprising:

19 removing the image from the print path downstream of the of the fusing device;
20 and,

21 merging the image back onto the print path upstream of the fusing device and
22 downstream of the deposition device.
23

24 19. The method of claim 15, and wherein the fusing device is configured to operate at
25 a normal processing speed during exposure of the image thereto.
26

27 20. The method of claim 15 and further comprising:

28 providing a fusing device having a single hot roller and a plurality of pressure
29 rollers; and,

30 successively passing the image between the hot roller and each of the pressure
31 rollers.
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